

Tech Hotline

No. 0122-CF

Color Consistency Using Colored Aggregate Finish

Sto Decocoat®, Sto GraniTex®, StoCreativ® Granite & StoCreativ® Lux are all finishes that get their color from colored ceramic beads and natural stones in a 100% acrylic binder. Due to minor color variation that may occur in the aggregates, Sto Corp. is unable to guarantee color consistency of these products from sample-to-sample, sample-to-batch, and batch-to-batch. The following is information on ordering, applying and/or boxing these finishes for best results.

1. Its recommended that the entire order be placed at the same time to minimize the number of batches.
2. Check batch numbers before applying material. For best results, apply material from the same batch number to a specific elevation.
3. Avoid installing different batches side-by-side. Install different batches at true architectural breaks such as corners and different elevations, or along inconspicuous wall areas. Minor (normal) batch-to-batch variation may become noticeable when installed on large, conspicuous wall areas.
4. If absolutely necessary to install different batches side-by-side, mix batches together to create uniform color. This is called boxing. To box material, start with an empty bucket or large mixing container and fill with equal parts of finish from each of the batches being used. Continue boxing until all the required buckets have been combined.
5. Always install a large mock-up (minimum 100 ft² [9.3m²]) for final inspection as a basis for acceptance of the finished work.
6. These types of finishes require the use of a Sto primer that has been tinted to match the finish. Always prime substrates in a continuous application, always working from a wet edge or architectural break to eliminate cold joints. After the Sto primer application is dry, verify for color consistency.
7. Application technique and product thickness can impact the final color appearance.
8. Avoid installing new finish adjacent to aged or weathered finish. Stop and start at true architectural breaks.
9. When spraying finishes, spray with consistent air pressure and technique while keeping perpendicular to the wall. Variations in any of these can cause texture changes within the wall and a perceived color difference.
10. Do not apply finish in direct sunlight. Different rates of drying will occur between areas in shade versus those in the sun. Scaffolding will similarly create shadow lines where the finish dries more slowly than adjacent areas. Different drying rates can result in different color.
11. Make certain surfaces are within tolerance. Wavy or irregular surfaces will affect how light is reflected from the surface, which can result in perceived color differences.
12. If at any step of this process a color appears to be incorrect – STOP. Call your Sto representative before proceeding.